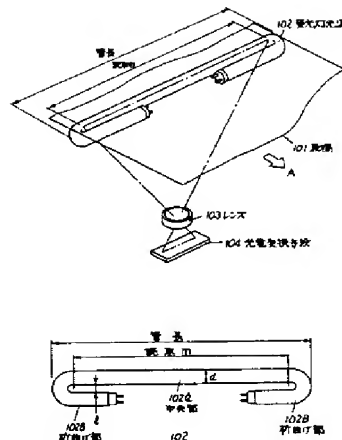


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**PURPOSE:** To make the device small in size and to uniformize the luminous quantity at the image forming position by folding both ends of a fluorescent light source into a C-shape and minimizing the tube length in the read width direction with the read width of the original.  
**CONSTITUTION:** Both the ends of the fluorescent light source 1-2 are formed as U-shape to form a C-shape as a whole and the original face is lighted over the read width. Moreover, the length of the folded part 102B is decided to obtain nearly uniform luminous quantity over the read width of the original and the part (I) with the middle part 102a is arranged in a way that a light path passes therethrough. By constituting the fluorescent light source 102 as the C-shape, the tube length requires the length to guarantee the dispersion of folding to form the optical path and the tube diameter (d), and the small size is attained as a whole. Moreover, the luminous quantity of the read section is easily uniformized over the read width.

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